

REMARKS

Prior to entry of the present Amendment, claims 1-26 are pending in the present application. In the Amendment, claims 8 and 21 are cancelled above. Claims 1 and 14 are amended above. No new matter is added by the claim amendments. Entry is respectfully requested.

The Applicants note that the Office Action Summary does not indicate whether the drawings filed in the application are acceptable. Confirmation of their acceptability is respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 3-7, 10 and 13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(a), 102(b) as being anticipated by Hayashi, *et al.* (United States Patent No. 5,717,251). Claims 14, 16-20 and 23-26 are also rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(a), 102(b) as being anticipated by Hayashi, *et al.* Claim 2 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hayashi, *et al.* in view of Wolf ("Silicon Processing for the VLSI Era, Volume 2 - Process Integration, p. 273-275). Claim 9 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hayashi, *et al.* Claims 11 and 12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hayashi, *et al.* in view of Wolf and Tauber ("Silicon Processing for the VLSI Era, Volume 1 - Process Technology," p. 527-531). Claim 15 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hayashi, *et al.* in view of Wolf. Claim 22 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hayashi, *et al.*

Applicant notes with appreciation that the Office Action indicates at page 8 that claims 8 and 21 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Independent claim 1 is amended above to include the limitations of former claim 8. Independent claim 14 is amended above to include the limitations of former claim 21. Entry and allowance of amended independent claim 1 and dependent claims 2-7 and 9-13 thereon, and amended independent claim 14 and dependent claims 15-20 and 22-26 thereon, are respectfully requested.

Closing Remarks

It is submitted that all claims are in condition for allowance, and such allowance is respectfully requested. If prosecution of the application can be expedited by a telephone conference, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned at the number given below.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: December 2, 2005



Mills & Onello, LLP
Eleven Beacon Street, Suite 605
Boston, MA 02108
Telephone: (617) 994-4900, Ext. 4902
Facsimile: (617) 742-7774
J:\SAM\0517\Amend A\amendmenta.wpd

Anthony P. Onello, Jr.
Registration Number 38,572
Attorney for Applicant